

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 EB-11 INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01

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R 210900Z MAR 74

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, GB/US

SUBJ: GRANT AGREEMENT FOR ALBERT SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL

REF: STATE 047782 AND 050878

1. PRESIDENT BONGO RECEIVED LAWRENCE GUSSMAN AND AMBASSADOR MARCH 19 FOR DELIVERY OF LETTER TO BONGO FROM PRESIDENT NIXON AND SIGNING OF GRANT AGREEMENT. ALSO PRESENT WERE MINISTER OF STATE RAWIRI, AMBASSADOR FANGUINOVENY AND ADMINISTRATOR OF HOSPITAL MAX CAULET.

2. PRESIDENT BONGO WAS IN VERY FRIENDLY AND RELAXED MOOD AND MEETING LASTED THREE-QUARTERS OF AN HOUR. BONGO THANKED GUSSMAN AND AMBASSADOR FOR LETTER AND GRANT AND SAID HE WOULD BE REPLYING TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S LETTER. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO SEND RAWIRI TO VISIT SEVERAL COUNTRIES ON BEHALF OF SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL IN ORDER TO HELP RAISE MONEY AND THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S LETTER WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. HE ASKED GUSSMAN WHAT THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WAS DOING AND WHEN GUSSMAN INDICATED POLITELY THAT NOTHING HAD YET BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM FRANCE, BONGO SAID HE WOULD RAISE MATTER WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND PRESIDENT POMPIDOU

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AND HE WAS CONFIDENT FRENCH WOULD HAVE TO COME THROUGH.

3. AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT BONGO BY MINISTER RAWIRI AS WITNESS FOR GOG AND BY GUSSMAN AND AMBASSADOR MCKESSON. ORIGINAL BEING SENT BY POUCH TO WASHINGTON. ONE COPY KEPT BY GUSSMAN, ONE BY GABONESE AND ONE BY EMBASSY.

4. ALTHOUGH BONGO HAD MADE SOME CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT DR. SCHWEITZER IN A SPEECH IN LAMBARENE SOME TWO WEEKS EARLIER, THERE WAS NO HINT OF THIS DURING MEETING MARCH 19. QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, BONGO PLACED EMPHASIS ON CARRYING ABROAD MESSAGE OF GREAT WORK DONE BY SCHWEITZER IN GABON AND NEED TO CONTINUE THIS WORK THROUGH NEW HOSPITAL.

5. AFTER SIGNING OF AGREEMENT, BONGO SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT WORLD SITUATION IN GENERAL AND ARABS IN PARTICULAR (SEE SEPTTEL).

6. AFTER MEETING WITH BONGO, GUSSMAN AND AMBASSADOR WENT TO RAWIRI'S HOME FOR BRIEF DISCUSSION RE FUTURE ACTION. GUSSMAN SAID HE WOULD WRITE RAWIRI (VIA EMBASSY) IN ABOUT TEN DAYS TO GIVE HIM LATEST INFO ON PROGRESS MADE IN RAISING FUNDS SO THAT RAWIRI COULD COORDINATE HIS EFFORTS WITH THOSE ALREADY UNDERWAY.
MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, GRANTS, HOSPITALS, LETTERS OF CREDIT, MEETINGS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LIBREV00355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740059-1173
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740326/aaaaayjr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: STATE 047782 AND 050878
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GRANT AGREEMENT FOR ALBERT SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, GB, US, FR, SA, ALBERT SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL, (GUSSMAN, LAWRENCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005